

Deborah Pyles

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Deborah Johnson Pyles, 62, of Crozet, Va., died suddenly on Monday, July 3, 2017 at home. Born July 7, 1954 in Corpus Christi, Texas, Deborah was the eldest daughter of Noye Johnson and Dolores Adamson. She grew up in Hanover, N.H., attended Williams College and then law school at the University of Virginia. She was an attorney at the law firm of Jones Day in Washington, D.C. prior to starting her family in Shadyside/Galesville, Md. She was director of the Hospice Network of Maryland and devoted her later working life to helping the homeless in Baltimore and advocating for patient in-home healthcare.

Passionate about women's health and gender equality, she supported a number of women's causes. She had a gift for relationship by reaching out to others, by being a warm, steady presence for those around her, and through cooking. She was an avid outdoors person who thrived in nature, loved hiking, collecting rocks, and gardening. She found community, fun and friends when she and her beloved husband, Jim, retired to Crozet in 2014. There they celebrated their 30 years of marriage and indulged their lifelong love of music in the Crozet Community Chorus and Crozet Jam Band. She is survived by her husband and life companion James C. Pyles; her children Laura and Noah of Pittsburgh, Pa.; her sister Anne Johnson and husband Peter Massarelli of Charlottesville Va.; nieces Emelia and Eva Massarelli, MaryBeth and Kim Pyles; and nephews Chris, Bobby, and Michael Pyles; as well as the many beloved members of the Adamson family clan. Among the bereaved are her dear friends Susan Buck, Debbie Nelson and Mary Mountcastle. Visitation hours are from 6 until 8 pm on Friday, July 7, 2017 at Hill and Wood Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 8, 2017 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ivy, Va., with a reception to follow. The family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Crozet Chorus, P.O. Box 568, Crozet, VA 22932; or the Global Fund for Women, 800 Market St, 7th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hillandwood.com.

Funeral Home

Hill and Wood Funeral Home

201 N. First Street Charlottesville, VA 22902
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